A

SPEECH

OF A

FELLOW COMMUNER

OF

ENGLAND

TO HIS

FELLOW COMMUNERS

OF THE

CONVENTION.

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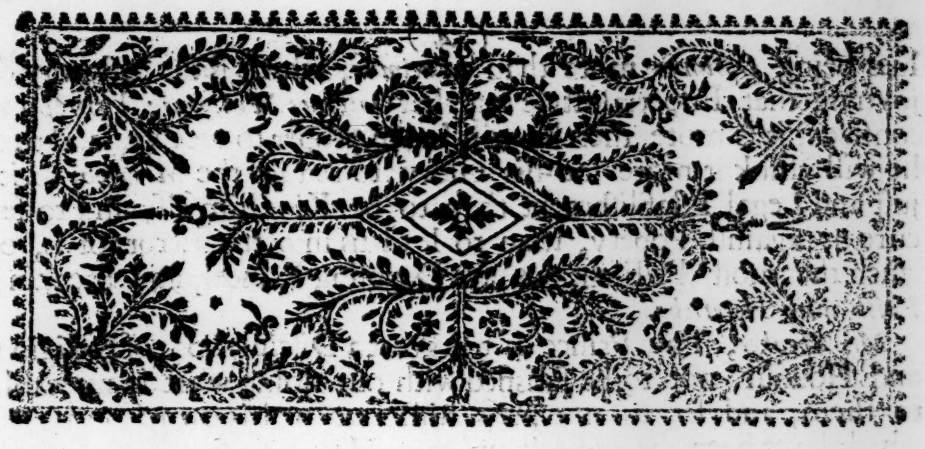

A SPEECH of a FELLOW COMMMUNER

To his FELLOW COMMUNERS of the *CONVENTION.*

Mr. Speaker,

THE preſent Providence deſerves our moſt ſerious Thoughts, and truly *Sir*, I cannot but ſay, that we are extremely obliged to the great Goodneſs and valour of the *Prince of Orange*, who with ſuch hazard & expence has brought us ſo ſeaſonable and Eminent a Deliverence from *Popery*, and I hope from Arbitrary Power alſo. *Sir*, We cannot give him too much, unleſs we give him more then our own (the Crown I mean) we have been of a long time taught, that is not the gift or work of Subjects, Soveraign Princes have made bold with on another, but I am of Opinion whatever Malice may ſuggeſt againſt his Highneſs, he has too Noble a Soul to be guilty of ſuch an Attempt; he came not hither for greatneſs, he has it of his own, and brought it with him, and Va-

lues being *Optimus* more than *Maximus*, which is the best way of joyning that Imperial ſtyle together *Optimus Maximus:* I ſay I am confident it is more then he will Judge proper to receive, and that he will think it more for his Glory to reduce the *Monarchy* to it juſt and Legal Eſtabliſhment than to be King himſelf, and to ſecure us againſt Popery, than to lead us into the Errors of it, of whch the moſt Peſtilentious are Depoſing Princes, and breaking *Faith with Hereticks.*

Mr. Speaker, The Prince is too great a Diſciple both of Religion and Honour, not to be ſatisfied with our doing what is agreeable to them, and let us not preſs him out of his own Sentiments, which have been the greateſt and moſt Heroick, that have appeared in this latter Age of the World; leaſt, whileſt we have taken Armes to redreſs Grievances we do not draw greater upon our ſelves, and that as well from Abroad as at Home.

For, *Sir*, when we believe *Catholick Princes* to have zeal ſo unſeaſonably fearce, and unſafe to other people, we cannot at the ſame time think they wil tamely ſuffer a *Catholick King* to be kept out of his Kingdom, for little more then being ſo; and I am affraid that this Procedure may Precipitate *Ireland* unto Extremities, and if it ſhould follow the King to *France*, all ſober ſenſible Men, know of what ill Conſequence a revolt to that Crown may be to this Kingdom; we ſhall then in ſtead of Invading *France* find difficulties to preſerve our own Countrie; nor for what I ſee, are we ſure of being at peace here; the Tyde his mightily abated ſince the Kings going from *Rocheſter*, thoſe that wiſhed his Humiliation in the Government, will by no means hear of his Excluſion and Perdition, from the Crown; they either believe the Fault none of his, or not of weight enough to juſtifie ſo extraordinary example, Kings muſt ſee and hear by the Eyes and Ears of others which makes it their misfortune rather then their Crime, that they do Amiſe. We are alſo of a Church that has been ſingular for her Honour, and Deference to Kings, and if we have any for Her, we ought to Tread tender lie in this Point, and that we may be juſt, two things compel us to it for our own ſake.

The firſt is, that the moſt of things that made the Kings Govern-

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ment so Obnoxious have already been done in this, we have had a *Dispensing Power* exercised both at *Exeter* and at *London*, we have had free Quarter constrained almost in all places where the *Dutch Army* has marched, we have in great part a Popish Army too, though that was one of the most crying Offences we objected to the King, and from which we drew the most Popular Notions of our insecurity, the very Money that is now receiving, was asked with Armies on Foot, and all men will conclude there was no refusing a Proposal so seconded: and how far our Famous Petition of Right may be concerned in this, the Gentlemen of the Law must determine; But I dare say, this very Loan could not escape this Censure under a Lawful Prince, and under our present Circumstances, we cannot reasonably think the case better.

Nor is this all, the second Reason of our Caution is, the little Truth, that at last appears in those many stories, that above any Charge seemed to Alienate the Hearts of his Subjects from his *Majesty*, and to dissolve that Tye of Affection and Duty they had to him as his Subjects. Such as the allarms we had here of a *French Invasion*; the Kings selling the Kingdom for five *Millions Sterl.* the *Irish* killing Man, Woman and Child upon the Roads, the *French* Imbarked for the *West*, but Met and Sunk by the *Dutch*, the Forty Thousand new fashioned *Knives* of *slaughter*, the Queens *Back Door* for bringing to Bed a *Supposititious Child*, Her cuffing the Earle of *Graven* and the *Princess Anne*, with Forty more of that stamp, which time hath proved as Malitious as False; how much they have influenced to this present great change, is not unworthy of our just thoughts and answer, and in my Opinion it calls upon us as loudly for a speedy Reparation.

Mr. Speaker, These are the things that have driven the King out of *England*, and if it can be proved that the Prince of *Wales* is an *Imposture*, and that there was a League with *France* to cut off *Protestants*, I think nothing has befallen him too hard measure for him; but truly *Sir*, It is upon no other terms that the People of *England* will part with their King, or with any patience think of the usage he has got upon that supposition. But it is objected that some

of those that were in Armes are in apprehension, least their Estates and Lives should be at the Mercy of the King, in case he returns; I think the King will be so far from expecting, and the Nation from yeelding to it, that they must not only be all pardoned, but those Lords and Gentlemen that have been the Noble Assertors of our *English Liberties* at this juncture must be posted in the greatest places of Honour and Trust. *I* hope the King himself will see it his Interest to leave off little and Parasitical Favourites, and be willing that such be Employed in all his Affairs as his People can confide in, and as will use their Preferments for the Honour of their Prince and the good of his Subjects.

Mr. Speaker, The Objection against the Kings return upon the account of having Deserted his Kingdoms, by going into *France*, I am astonished at, since it is plain he did not voluntarly desert us as the the Queen of *Swedland* did her Kingdom, but was Attacked from Abroad and deserted at Home; Consequently, *Sir*, that cannot be in good Morality as well as Law, a Demise, Forfeiture, Surrender, or Abdication of the Crown of *England*.

Mr. Speaker, I fear that if I have not tyred your Patience, I have been at least ordinary long for some Members of a contrary Judgement, who Sit in this *Convention*, and therefore I shall add this humble Caution, that our *Convention* consider well their Power, which I do conceive, is too scantie to make a New King, though it may call home that to whom we have most if not all of us Sworn Allegiance; Nay, let me say further, if our case were so Desperat that no Remedie would serve but Creating a New King, our *Convention* has not enough of our *Fellow-Subjects* for the rest to be concluded by: When things are Transacted according to the known Laws and Ancient Customes, the usual Deputies may deliver and state the Intentions of the People, but when so many and great Alterations must be made in the Building that is to be for the common Convenience, every Man thinketh himself worthy to be consulted as well as the greatest *Architect* when he is to dwell in the House. *Parliaments* that are called by *Kings* cannot make *Kings*, and a *Convention* not called by a King, and as narrow bottomed as a

Parliament

Parliament is yet less nor a *Parliament*, because it wants the Sanction a *Parliament* has, if then it seems a Solecism that a Meeting less then a *Parliament*, can make a King without whom a *Parliament* cannot be; What shall we think of this *Convention's* making a King of him that makes the *Convention*? Can you Act Lawfully upon an unlawful Call, or an unlawful Convention make him a Lawful King? We are taught by an *English* Proverb, *that no Stream rises Higher than its Fountain.* How is it possible for them to give Authority to Govern that have none but what they receive from him, who by our Law can have none, to give? *Sir*, This is neither more nor less than for his *Highness* to make himself King by a *Medium* of his own, a thing as much below him to do, as it is above us to think of, therefore if we must go to this Work, let us call in more Heads to our Assistance; but I rather Advise, and humbly move, that we Pray the *Prince* who has been our Deliverer, to be our Arbitratour, to give Limites to *Prerogative* and our Liberty, to secure us that are the *Protestant Subjects* in our Religion, and to show the King what sort of Liberty he only ought to expect for his *Roman Catholick Subjects*; I say let us beseech him to call Back the King for these Great Ends, the accomplishing of which will make both King and Kingdom happy, and the Great *Prince of Orange* renowned in all the Histories of *Europe* as well as in our *Annals.*

FINIS.